

SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2023: Missouri

Overview of the SCAN Policies Database

The State Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Policies Database compiles data on the definitions and policies that states use in their surveillance of child maltreatment, along with data on associated risk and protective factors. The SCAN Policies Database is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation in collaboration with the Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mathematica leads this project in partnership with Child Trends.

The project's purpose is to review and compile information from states' definitions and policies to create a database of those definitions and policies that can be used for analysis. The SCAN Policies Database is a resource for researchers, analysts, child welfare agency staff, and others interested in examining differences between states in their definitions and policies on child maltreatment and how they change over time.

Content

The scope of the SCAN Policies Database includes information about state definitions and policies related to child abuse and neglect for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The SCAN Policies Database team gathered this information through a document collection, review, and coding process. The team obtained input from states on data collection through a confirmation and verification process. More information about these data collection procedures can be found in the data user's guide and data collection protocol, accessible at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>.

The SCAN Policies Database 2023 represents data collected, reviewed, and verified between June 2023 and July 2024. The data reflect the state definitions and policies for the calendar year 2023. The scope of topics in the database includes states' definitions of child abuse and neglect, as well as information about policies related to reporting, screening, and investigating child maltreatment. Key aspects of the child welfare systems' response and context are also included.

The content in the SCAN Policies Database is organized into six domains. The state profiles, codebook, data collection protocol, and data file are also organized by these domains. In the protocol, each question begins with a letter prefix identifying the domain for each variable. The six domains with the identifying protocol number prefix are listed below.

| Domain | Question prefix |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Definitions | D |
| Reporting | R |
| Screening | S |
| Investigation | I |
| Child welfare response | W |
| Child welfare system context | C |

State profile

This SCAN Policies Database state profile is a summary of the information collected about the definitions and policies for the identified state. Each of the six domains contain a set of tables that depict the state's information for all variables within that domain.

The state profile presents data for each variable with “yes,” “no,” “unknown,” or other response, as appropriate. The response of “unknown” appears for topics that could not be located from the state's available resources or verified with that state. In some cases, “logical skip” appears when a question was not applicable to a particular state, given a related response on a preceding question. Some information was not included in the state profile to ensure alignment with Executive Orders or other Presidential Actions.

Data use resources

Several data use resources are available to support users of the SCAN Policies Database:

- **Data user's guide:** The guide has detailed information about the data set, including the process used to collect and review the data, the scope of information included in the data set, guidance on using the data, such as how to link the data with other data sources, and notes about specific topics. The data user's guide includes appendices, including information about changes to the data between 2021 and 2023 that reflect changes to state laws and policies during that time period. There is one data user's guide that is updated and applicable for all rounds of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.
- **Codebook:** The codebook provides information about each variable in the data set, including variable names, labels, definitions, protocol number, variable type, and frequencies. There are separate codebooks to summarize the data from each round of data collection.
- **Errata statement:** The errata statement presents corrections applied to previous rounds of data for the SCAN Policies Database. Starting in 2023, there is one errata statement that is updated and applicable for all rounds of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.
- **Data collection protocol:** The protocol has the questions used to collect information about states' laws and policies as part of the data review and coding process for each round of data collection. There are separate data collection protocols for each round of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.

These data use resources can be found on the SCAN Policies Database website (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>) or from the National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) (<https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/>).

More information

More information about the SCAN Policies Database can be found at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com>. General inquiries can be submitted to SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com.

State identifying information

Table I. State Identifying information

| | Response |
|---|----------|
| State abbreviation | MO |
| State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code | 29 |
| Census region code | Midwest |
| State verified coding of information | Yes |
| State confirmed documents reviewed | Yes |
| State definitions and policies for calendar year | 2023 |
| Data version | 2023v1 |

Domain D: Definitions of child maltreatment

Table D.I. State's definition of child maltreatment

| | Response |
|---|--|
| 1. Types of maltreatment included in state definition | |
| a. Physical abuse | Yes |
| b. Excessive corporal punishment | Yes |
| c. Sexual abuse | Yes |
| d. Emotional maltreatment | Yes |
| e. Neglect | Yes |
| f. Inadequate clothing | Yes |
| g. Inadequate shelter | Yes |
| h. Malnourishment, inadequate food | Yes |
| i. Medical neglect, inadequate medical care | Yes |
| j. Failure to thrive | Yes |
| k. Educational neglect | Yes |
| l. Abandonment | Yes |
| m. Injurious environment. Likelihood of harm to child's health, physical well-being | Yes |
| n. Drug lab. Child present within structure where methamphetamine is being created | Yes |
| o. Inadequate supervision. Failure to meet parent or caretaker responsibilities | Yes |
| p. Drug or alcohol misuse. Parental drug or alcohol misuse causing harm to child | Yes |
| q. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol | Yes |
| r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child | Yes |
| s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude | Yes |
| t. Female genital mutilation | Yes |
| u. Shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma | Yes |
| v. Failure to protect. Failure to protect from harm | Yes |
| w. Domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence | No |
| x. Factitious disorder by proxy | Yes |
| y. Institutional abuse/neglect | No |
| z. Other definition (specify) | No |
| 2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition | |
| a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse | Abuse includes physical abuse, excessive corporal punishment, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and exposure to a methamphetamine lab; Physical abuse includes shaken baby syndrome; Sexual abuse includes sexual trafficking |
| b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect | Neglect includes medical neglect, inadequate clothing, inadequate shelter, malnourishment, educational neglect, abandonment, and inability to meet parent responsibilities; Medical neglect includes failure to thrive |

Table D.1 (*continued*)

| | Response |
|--|--|
| c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect | Not applicable |
| 3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Inflicts harm | Yes |
| b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm | Yes |
| 4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment | Yes - For abuse the level of harm is inflicts harm; for neglect the level of harm is imminent danger or substantial risk of harm |
| 5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Death, bodily injury, impairment of physical condition | Yes |
| b. Impairment of mental or emotional condition | Yes |
| c. Harmful environment, conditions | Yes |
| d. Type of harm or injury not specified | No |
| e. Other (specify) | No |
| 6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment | Yes - Type of harm or injury applies to abuse; There is no indication of harm types for neglect |
| 7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment | Yes |
| 8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Any person | No |
| b. Parent | Yes |
| c. Guardian | Yes |
| d. Caregiver/caretaker | Yes |
| e. Family member or parent's paramour | Yes |
| f. Household member | Yes |
| g. Person responsible for child | Yes |
| h. Other (specify) | Yes - Any person who takes control of the child by deception, force or coercion |
| 9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment | No |
| 10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type | Not applicable |
| 11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment | Yes |
| 12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment | Under age 18 |
| 13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment | No |

Table D.II. Child maltreatment definition exemptions

| | Response |
|---|--|
| 1. Exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Financial issues, financial inability to provide for a child | No |
| b. Discipline; physical discipline, if it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child | Yes |
| c. Safe haven exemption; newborn relinquished or abandoned in accordance with infant safe haven and safe surrender laws | Yes |
| d. Infant testing positive for drugs – medical; newborn with positive test for controlled substance due to parent's medical treatment | No |
| e. Religious observance; parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment | Yes |
| f. Other exemption (specify) | No |
| 2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Must leave a child at specific safe haven locations or designated providers | Yes |
| b. Child must be left by parent or parent's agent | Yes |
| c. Child must be left by a certain age (specify) | Yes - 45 days old or younger |
| d. No intent to return | Yes |
| e. Child must be left unharmed | Yes |
| f. Other (specify) | Yes - Parents who choose to leave a child who is more than 45 days old (but less than one year old) can use this exemption as an affirmative defense to charges related to child abandonment and child endangerment if it is done so safely and according to law |

Table D.III. Definitions and response for child fatalities and near-fatalities cases

| | Response |
|---|---|
| 1. State's definition of fatalities or deaths caused by child maltreatment | |
| a. Not specified or defined | No |
| b. Injury from abuse or neglect caused death | Yes |
| c. Abuse or neglect was contributing factor in death | No |
| d. Death of child who was in child welfare custody or foster care | No |
| e. Other (specify) | No |
| 2. State conducts case reviews with a child fatality review team or a similar review process for fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect | Yes, reviews are required for all or some cases |
| 3. State's definition of near-fatalities or near-deaths caused by child maltreatment | |
| a. Not specified or defined | No |
| b. General reference to a serious or critical condition or injury that is life threatening with a substantial risk of death | Yes |
| c. Specific injury or specific medical treatment or intervention (specify) | No |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 4. State conducts case reviews with a review team or similar review process for near-fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect | Yes, reviews are required for all or some cases |

Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table R.I. Reporting policies

| | Response |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Statewide centralized reporting | Yes |
| 2. Decentralized reporting | Logical Skip |
| 3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment | |
| a. Known abuse and neglect | No |
| b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected | Yes |
| 4. Universal mandated reporting | No |
| 5. Required training for mandated reporters | No |
| 6. Penalties for failure to report | Yes, all mandated reporters |
| 7. Specific penalties for failure to report | |
| a. Criminal charges | Yes |
| b. Civil charges | No |
| c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked | No |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 8. Penalties for false reporting | Yes |
| 9. Specific penalties for false reporting | |
| a. Criminal charges | Yes |
| b. Civil charges | No |
| c. Professional license suspended or revoked | No |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 10. Immunity for reporters of child abuse and neglect | Yes |
| 11. Information requested at the time of report | |
| a. Identifying information of child | Yes |
| b. Location and contact information of child and family | Yes |
| c. Type and severity of suspected maltreatment | Yes |
| d. Date of suspected maltreatment | Yes |
| e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s) | Yes |
| f. Identifying and other information of reporter | Yes |
| g. Identifying information of child's parents, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker | Yes |
| h. Identifying and other information of family or household members | Yes |
| i. Information on prior maltreatment | Yes |
| j. Other (specify) | No |

Table R.I (*continued*)

| | Response |
|---|--|
| 12. Anonymity of reporter | General public (not mandated reporters) can remain anonymous |
| 13. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to accept reports of Tribal cases | No, there are no Tribes within the state |
| 14. State requires all notifications of substance-exposed newborns (SENs) to be submitted as reports of child maltreatment | |
| a. State does not require all cases of SENs to be reported for child maltreatment, but they could be reported if they meet certain criteria | Yes |
| b. State requires all SENs to be reported as child maltreatment | No |
| c. Other (specify) | No |
| 15. Accepts reports of risk without an allegation of child maltreatment (risk-only reports) | No |

Table R.II. Types of mandated reporters

| | Response | Response | Response |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Types of mandated reporters | Included in state's definition of mandated reporters | Training required ¹ | Subject to penalties for failure to report ² |
| a. Foster parents | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| b. School staff - teachers | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| d. Before- /after-school program staff | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| e. Child care staff | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| g. Athletic coaches or staff | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| h. Medical or dental professionals | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| k. Police or other law enforcement | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| m. Judges | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| n. District attorneys or other attorneys | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| o. Guardians ad litem or court-appointed special advocates | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| p. Other court personnel | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| q. Shelter staff | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| s. Religious clergy | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| t. Volunteers | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| u. Coroners or medical examiners | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| v. Staff or contractors of state and county agencies | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |

Table R.II (*continued*)

| | Response | Response | Response |
|--|---|--------------|---|
| w. Other type of mandated reporter (specify) | Yes - Other person with the responsibility for the care of children | Logical Skip | Yes - Other person with the responsibility for the care of children |

¹ Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no training is required for mandated reporters (Table R.II). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table R.I) and all mandated reporters require training (Table R.II).

² Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table R.I). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table R.I) and when all adults or all mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table R.I).

Domain S: Screening reports of child abuse and neglect

Table S.I. Screening policies

| | Response |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Statewide centralized screening | Yes |
| 2. How screening is decentralized | Logical Skip |
| 3. Information required to screen in report | |
| a. Identifying information of child | Yes |
| b. Location and contact information of child and family | No |
| c. Type and severity of suspected maltreatment | Yes |
| d. Date of suspected maltreatment | No |
| e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s) | Yes |
| f. Other (specify) | No |

Table S.II. Screening decision process and activities

| | Response | Required cases | Conditions or types of cases |
|---|----------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Decision processes used during screening | | | |
| a. Supervisory review | Yes | Required for some | — |
| b. Team-based decision | No | Logical Skip | — |
| c. Individual screener | Yes | Required for all | — |
| d. Other (specify) | No | Logical Skip | — |
| e. Unknown | No | — | — |
| 2. Variability of decision process used for screening | | | |
| a. Consistent statewide | Yes | — | — |
| b. Varies locally | No | — | — |
| 3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening | Yes | | |
| 4. Activities or information required as part of screening | | | |
| a. Safety or risk assessment | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| b. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| c. Other (specify) | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| 5. Types of safety or risk assessment used during screening | | | |
| a. Structured decision making | Yes | — | — |
| b. Other (specify) | No | — | — |
| 6. Consistency of screening activities/information | | | |
| a. Consistent statewide | Yes | — | — |
| b. Varies locally (specify) | No | — | — |

Table S.III. Screeners

| | Response |
|---|---|
| 1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports | |
| a. Caseworkers (frontline staff) | No |
| b. Case managers (supervisors) | No |
| c. Staff in specialized screening unit | Yes |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 2. Qualifications of screener | |
| a. Associate's degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | Yes |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for screening (specify) | Yes - Specialized training for all Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline Unit team members is a part of the on-boarding process |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | Yes - Individuals without a bachelor's degree in social work or human services-related field may be allowed to substitute with direct relevant experience on a case-by-case basis |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| 3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners | Yes, recommended or preferred, but not required |
| 4. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to screen Tribal cases | No, there are no Tribes within the state |

Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table I.I. Investigations policies

| | Response |
|--|---|
| 1. Findings from child maltreatment investigations can lead to criminal penalties | Yes |
| 2. Investigator for reports | |
| a. Caseworkers (frontline staff) | Yes |
| b. Case managers (supervisors) | Yes |
| c. Staff in specialized investigations unit | Yes |
| d. Law enforcement | Yes |
| e. Other (specify) | No |
| 3. Qualifications of investigator | |
| a. Associate's degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | Yes |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for conducting investigations (specify) | Yes - At least 40 hours of pre-service training on the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect; 20 hours of annual in-service training on the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect, including at least 4 hours of medical forensics relating to child abuse and neglect as approved by the SAFE CARE network |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | Yes - Individuals without a bachelor's degree in social work or human services-related field may be allowed to substitute with direct relevant experience on a case-by-case basis |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| 4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators | Yes, recommended or preferred, but not required |
| 5. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed) | Preponderance of evidence |
| 6. Investigation determination can result in an "inconclusive" finding | No |

Table I.II. Required activities/information for investigation

| | Response | Required cases | Conditions or types of cases |
|---|--|-------------------|---|
| 1. Certain activities or information required for the investigation process | Yes | | |
| 2. Specific activities or information required for investigation | | | |
| a. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| b. Visit to child's home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| c. Interview or observation of child victim | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| d. Interview or observation of other children living in child's home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| e. Risk or safety assessment | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| f. Evaluation of home environment or home study | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| g. Interviews with child's parents, caregivers, or other adults residing in child's home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| h. Check of criminal records for adults in home | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| i. Check of child welfare or central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations against adults in home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| j. Medical evaluation | Yes | Required for some | Child fatalities; Physical abuse; Sexual abuse; Reports involving children under 4; Serious physical injury |
| k. Mental health evaluation | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| l. Interview alleged perpetrator | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| m. Interview reporter or collateral source | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| n. Other (specify) | Yes - Contact school liaison; Contact law enforcement; Consult with designated chief investigator; Assess the family's need for services | Required for all | Not applicable |

Domain W: Child welfare response

Table W.I. Differential or alternative response

| | Response |
|--|--|
| 1. Differential/alternative response | Yes--implemented statewide |
| 2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response | Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible |
| 3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response | |
| a. Cases involving child fatalities and near-fatalities | Yes |
| b. Substance-exposed infants | No |
| c. Physical abuse | Yes |
| d. Sexual abuse | Yes |
| e. Neglect | Yes |
| f. Abandoned infants | No |
| g. Other (specify) | Yes - Abandonment of a child under the age of eight years old |
| 4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination | No |
| 5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response | Logical Skip |
| 6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response | Logical Skip |
| 7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response | |
| a. No other cases or conditions | No |
| b. No immediate safety concerns | Yes |
| c. No or few prior reports of child abuse or neglect | Yes |
| d. Other (specify) | Yes - Only familial or household relationship between victim and alleged perpetrator; Mild, moderate or first-time non-felonious reports of physical abuse or neglect (including medical neglect); Reported abuse or neglect in which this incident occurred or likely occurred over one year prior to the report date; Mild or moderate reports of emotional abuse; Educational neglect reports |
| 8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response | |
| a. At the time of screening to assign to differential response | Yes |
| b. After a report is screened in | Yes |
| c. Other (specify) | No |
| 9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response | |
| a. No | No |
| b. Yes - for all cases | No |
| c. Yes - when families express interest | Yes |
| d. Yes - when there is a determination of risk | Yes |
| e. Yes - other (specify) | No |

Table W.II. In-home services, foster care, and permanency

| | Response |
|---|---|
| 1. In-home services provided for unsubstantiated cases to maintain intact families | Yes--implemented statewide |
| 2. In-home services provided post reunification | No |
| 3. Permanency | |
| a. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option | Yes |
| b. Subsidized guardianship | Yes |
| c. Subsidized kinship guardianship | Yes |
| d. Subsidized adoption | Yes |
| 4. Foster care case management staff | |
| a. State/county public agency staff | Yes |
| b. Contracted provider staff | Yes |
| c. Tribal agency staff | No |
| 5. Qualifications of foster care case managers | |
| a. Associate degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | Yes |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for case management (specify) | No |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | Yes - Individuals without a bachelor's degree in social work or human services-related field may be allowed to substitute with direct relevant experience on a case-by-case basis |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| 6. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers | Yes, recommended or preferred, but not required |

Table W.III. Tribal foster care and Tribes that directly operate Title IV-E programs through an agreement with HHS

| | Response |
|--|--|
| 1. Tribal involvement in foster care for Tribal cases | No, there are no Tribes within the state |
| 2. Tribes directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS | No |
| 3. Number of Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS | Logical Skip |
| 4. Specify Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS | Not applicable |

Table W.IV. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

| | Response |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Federal ICWA requirements codified in state law | No |
| 2. Federal ICWA requirements that are codified in state law | Logical Skip |
| 3. State law codifying ICWA includes state-recognized Tribes | Logical Skip |

Table W.V. Extended foster care

| | Response |
|---|--|
| 1. Foster care extension for youth older than age 18 | Yes |
| 2. Age youth are allowed to remain in extended foster care | Up to age 21 (until 21st birthday) |
| 3. Youth must proactively request, provide consent, or opt-in to receive extended foster care | No |
| 4. Criteria for youth to remain in extended foster care | |
| a. There are no criteria to remain in extended foster care | Yes |
| b. Enrolled in school | No |
| c. Employed | No |
| d. Participating in workforce development/training program | No |
| e. Comply with independent living/self-sufficiency plan | No |
| f. Receive independent living or other services | No |
| g. Medical condition exemption | No |
| h. Other (specify) | No |
| 5. Reentry to extended foster care allowed for youth older than age 18 who aged out or left foster care | Yes |
| 6. Conditions for youth to reenter extended foster care | |
| a. Youth consent or sign a voluntary placement agreement | No |
| b. Youth develop an independent living plan | Yes |
| c. It is in the best interest of the youth | Yes |
| d. Other (specify) | Yes - The youth must not: (1) have been committed to the custody of another agency; (2) be under a legal guardianship; or (3) have pled guilty or been found guilty of a felony criminal offense |

Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table C.I. Child welfare system context

| | Response |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. State- or county-administered child welfare system | State-administered |
| 2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring | Yes - M.B. vs. Tidball |

Supplemental Notes on State

Definitions

Drug or alcohol misuse is referred to as "reports alleging that parents/caretakers of children are behaving in a bizarre manner or acting under the influence of drugs or alcohol and that they could pose an immediate danger to the children (at the time of the report or with the preceding 24 hours)."

Threats to child safety include domestic violence, but domestic violence is not included in the definition of abuse or neglect.

Near-fatalities cases are referred for a Critical Event Response, which is a process for reporting, reviewing, and documenting the Children's Division's response to significant events. They are required for near-fatalities when a child is involved in an open investigation or family assessment, is in foster care, or has recent involvement with the Children's Division for suspected abuse or neglect.

Reporting

All mandated reporters are strongly encouraged, but not required, to complete a free online training course for mandated reporters from the Missouri Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children.

Screening

Supervisors may need to review a screening call if they receive an email or phone call from county staff, constituents, or the reporter or if the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline Unit team members request supervisory review before the call is submitted. Supervisors review a percentage of reports and referrals for quality assurance for each team member. Supervisors review all documented calls and non-ca/n fatality referrals for each of their team members. New team members have a higher percentage of calls reviewed.

Child welfare response

Missouri's Department of Social Services can provide services to families post-reunification, but there are currently no existing policies on this, and these services are not routinely provided.

Child welfare context

M.B. vs. Tidball is a court-ordered joint settlement agreement, not a consent decree.

State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

Child Protection and Reformation, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 12-210 (2021).

Health and Welfare, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 12-191 (2019).

Missouri Code of State Regulations. (2020). Department of Social Services, Children's Division:
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